

1964 High Trip

This year's two week backpacking trip will be in the San Juan Wilderness Area in wouthwestern Colorado north of Durango. It results from suggestions made by Dick Guadagno, an expert on the area and an active proponent of its eventual inclusion in a new national park. Together with the adjacent Rio Grande Wild Area, it occupies an irregular 50-mile-long blob astride the continental divide. Peaks range from 12,500' to over 14,000' in the western part in the Needle Mountains, "one of the roughest in the United States" and a "paradise for mountain climbers". Rock is mostly sedimentary, sometimes maroon and other colors. The country as a whole is high; we will be above 10,000' most of the trip, descending below 9000' only on the first and last days. Almost all the route is on trails.

Rainfall is more frequent than in the Sierra, and vegetation more lush. Spectacular afternoon thunderstorms are not unusual.

As plans stand now, we will start hiking westward around 9:00 AM on Tues., Sept. 1, from Borns Lake Resort, west of Highway 160 between Pagosa Springs and Wolf Creek Pass. On Sept. 14 we will descend to Needleton to catch the historic Narrow Gauge Railroad to Durango, having previously arranged a car shuttle between Durango and the resort.

The proposed itinerary, which is likely to be changed, but which may give you an idea of what is involved, is as follows:

Date	Campsite	Approx. mileage	Approx. elev. gain or loss
Aug. 31	Wolf Creek Campground	-	-
Sept. 1	Cimarron Creek	6½	+800
Sept. 2	Lake near Piedra Peak	9	+1700
Sept. 3	Monument Lake	6	±100
Sept. 4	Timberline on Indian Creek	10	-500
Sept. 5	Timberline on Williams Creek	11	+ 2000
Sept. 6	Hossick Lake	4½	±500
Sept. 7	Los Pinos River	13	- 1500
Sept. 8	Rock Lake	11	+2000
Sept. 9	Layover day	-	-
Sept. 10	Timberline on Sunlight Creek	15	+2000 -700
Sept. 11	Layover Day	-	-

Sept. 12	Johnson Creek	8½	-2400
Sept. 13	Hazel Lake	8	+3300
Sept. 14	Catch train at Needleton	11	-4400

Fellows will be starting out with 50-65 lb. packs; girls with 35-45 lbs. Keeping this in mind, plus the high altitude, you may want to do some getting into shape before the trip.

Traditionally breakfasts and dinners are purchased for the group as a whole, while lunches are bought individually. Of course you may bring all your own food and cooking utensils if you desire. If you want to be included in the group commissary for breakfasts and dinners, please send me a \$10.00 deposit by Aug. 26 (should cover the cost).

Whether or not you send me your \$10.00, please let me know if you are planning to go, and if you need or can supply transportation to Colorado. It will take about 1½ day of steady driving to get from Berkeley to Colorado - more if you do it leisurely. I will get in touch with you concerning transportation arrangements; let me know where you can be reached at the end of August.

For more information;

Helen McGinnis
 2215 Roosevelt
 Berkeley 3, Calif.
 843-7664

EQUIPMENT Recommended

Pack with frame (If you want the best and can afford \$35, write to the A. I. Kelty Mfg. Co., P.O. Box 3453, Glendale 1, Calif. or see Gerry in San Francisco.)

Warm, light weight sleeping bag (Plan on temperatures below freezing at night.)

Poncho (Army ponchos can be snapped together to make tents.)

Hiking boots (Broken in but in good enough shape to last the two weeks without falling apart.)

1 pair of long pants

1 pair of sturdy shorts if you like to hike in them.

2 light-weight shirts

Warm jacket and/or parka and/or sweaters

3 changes of underwear

3 complete changes of socks (thin inner socks and thick outer ones)

1 pair of tennis shoes for relaxing in camp

Large, unbreakable cup (folding cup only if you want to lose weight) and spoon

½ - 1 roll toilet paper

Jackknife

Matches in waterproof container

2 pieces of heavy polyethylene - one large enough to cover pack with sleeping bag attached, another about #1 X 7'

30' length of cord

Washcloth and small towel

Soap in soapdis, toothbrush and toothpaste, chapstick

Personal first-aid kit (bandaids, disinfectant, gauze, tape)

P 1

Bandana

U. S. Forest Service map of San Juan National Forest (Free:
write to Forest Supervisor, San Juan National Forest,
West Building, Durango, Colorado 81301

Optional

Pocketbook to read

Fishing gear and license

Camera etc.

Flashlight

U. S. G. S. topographic maps: Spar City 15', 1957; Wolf Creek
Pass 15', 1957; San Cristobal 30', 1905; Needle Mtns.
15', 1900. 30¢ each; order from the U. S. Geological
Survey, Federal Center, Denver 25, Colo. Better allow
at least two weeks to receive them.

Musical instrument (uke, recorder, ...?)

Compass

Plastic tube tent

Bathing suit

Small canteen (not necessary)

Try to keep the weight of your personal gear, minus food
and what you will be wearing, to 20 lbs. or less. Pots will
be part of the group commissary, along with extra first-aid material,
a sewing kit, and screws and wire for minor repairs on boots and
packs.

Lunches: You will probably find that jars of jam, canned
juices and fresh fruit too heavy and bulky to carry. Cheese, nuts,
salami, crackers, hard bread, cany, dried fruits and drink such as
Wylers or Fizzies are good.